(b) if so, the details of reasons for which Government had to think such alternative; and

(c) to what extent NRIs will be benefited by this measure and the investment likely to be increased as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The process of registration of Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) in a simplified form and the benefits that would be given to them is under consideration.

Consumption of various sources for generating power

1647. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the yearly consumption of coal, oil and natural gas and such other energy sources in the field of generation of power;

(b) the policy of Government to derive alternative energy sources in the face of diminishing trend of the conventional ones;

(c) the status of solar, water and wind energy sources undertaken so far;

(d) the reasons restricting development of these alternative energy sources; and

(e) the details of policy of the Central Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Around 289 million metric ton of coal, 3.44 million ton of oil, 11379 million cubic meter of natural gas and 1.99 million ton of naptha were utilized for generation of power during 2003-04.

(b) Conventional energy, such as coal, oil and natural gas, is finite. Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass and small hydro are supplementing the country's energy needs in furtherance of the aim of energy security. The potential of renewable energy in the country from wind, small hydro and biomass has been estimated at around 80,000 MW, against which around 5500 MW grid interactive renewable power installed capacity has been set up, as on 31.12.2004.

(c) Around 2980 MW from wind, 1690 MW from small hydro and 2.80 MW solar photovoltaic grid interactive renewable power installed capacity has been set up, as on 31.12.2004.

(d) The main reasons for restricting development of renewable energy are—inherent intermittent nature of renewable energy sources leading to relatively lower capacity utilization factors; relatively high capital costs compared to conventional power systems; requirement of preferential tariffs apart from other fiscal/financial concessions to make grid interactive renewable power and the need for maintaining a balance among various sources—whether conventional, nuclear or renewable—to ensure that avoidable additional costs are not unnecessarily strapped on to the development process, which is already facing an acute scarcity of financial resources.

(e) The aim is to deploy around 10 per cent of the additional grid interactive power installed capacity from renewables during the Tenth and Eleventh Plan periods. During the first two years of the Tenth Plan, 10 and 2 percentage points of grid interactive power installed capacity has come from wind and small hydro power respectively, apart from 3 percentage point from bio energy thereby making it a total of 15 percentage points of grid interactive renewable power installed capacity. Hence, the rate of deployment of these renewable technologies is highly satisfactory. Financial incentives apart from fiscal incentives such as accelerated depreciation, relief in taxes and duties and term loans from financial institutions are being provided apart from preferential tariff to grid interactive renewable power being available in serveal potential States. Further, SPV systems have been found to be competitive for small loads like home lighting system etc. in remote applications, where grid extension is either not cost-effective or feasible. Over 25,000 villages have already been identified as remote where SPV systems are being deployed alongwith other renewable energy technologies. In this regard, this Ministry is setting up some test projects in selected remote villages to try out the concept of village energy security by providing the entire needs of cooking, lighting and motive through the biomass route in conjunction or otherwise with micro hydel power and other renewable technologies. This apart, in furtherance of the aim of energy conservation, solar thermal system deployment is being facilitated.

Setting up hydro-electric power plant in Assam

1648. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam has the potential of generating 34,000 MW of hydro-electricity, but only 668 MW has been tapped so far;